No. 668 Twopence June, 1959

THE
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A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

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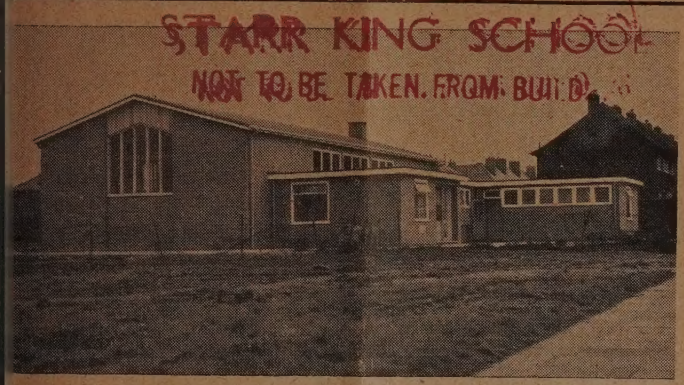

UR REBUILT HURCHES

Wythenshawe
By John Gill

Forty years ago cattle grazed here to-day some 90,000 souls dwell. ythenshawe, the garden city burb of south Manchester is mous the world over. Almost a arter of a century ago the plan- ng authority of the city ear- arked half-an-acre of land for a nitarian Church after application d been made by the Manchester strict Association of Unitarian d Free Christian Churches.

Twenty-four years ago, a small oup of Unitarians who had moved om other parts of Manchester to e in Corporation houses on the tate, met regularly for Services of orship in a room above premises ed as a cafe in one of the main opping centres of the district. velve months later the congrega- on moved into a "temporary" ooden building which had been erected upon the site allocated at the crossing of Hollyhedge Road and Brownley Road in the district of Benchill.

The Rev. M. Mills served as the first Minister of this new congregation, following whom men of many qualities have carried on the good work. The fortunes of the congregation have varied from good to very poor indeed. A few faithful men and women have been loyal to the cause from its humble beginnings to this proud time. None may be more admired for such loyalty than Mr. Sydney Cartland, Chairman of the Congregation, and Mrs. Cartland his wife.

They say it is an ill wind which blows nobody any good. Often the misfortunes of others brings a lucky break for ourselves. When Moss Side Unitarian Free Church in Brook Bar, Manchester, was destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War, many hearts were saddened.

To-day many hearts are gladdened. Arrangements made by and through the M.D.A. and the War Damage Commission of H.M. Government have been successful in transferring the allocation of reinstatement of the Moss Side Church to that valuable half acre in Wythenshawe.

The new building will cost over £16,000, of which a little over £13,000 will be met from W.D.C. Monies. The rest has been given or loaned by M.D.A. from various funds.

On June 6th, next, at 3 p.m. the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (and one of the Ministers who have worked to keep the Unitarian Flag flying in Wythenshawe) will officially open and dedicate this new building.

Why not come along to see what a fine job has been done by the Architect, Francis Jones and Son of Oxford Road, Manchester, and the Builder, Moston Brick and Building Co. Ltd., in consultation with various Denominational Committees and Sub-Committees, and, in particular, with the Rev. John Gill the present Minister.

WANTED

for Pendleton Unitarian Church Albert Schweitzer Boys' Club: Boxing gloves, box games, etc. Please send to Mr. G. Harrison, 2, Walwyn Close, Stretford, Manchester.

THE INQUIRER

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HIBBERT HOUSES

F. J. M. Stratton

A recent visit to Cyprus has enabled me to see the valuable work for the troops that the Rev. G. J. Sparham, M.B.E., and Miss E. V. Abel, M.B.E., are still carrying on after eighteen years continuous service. A chapel and room for quiet meditation and worship alongside a crowded bookshop, a canteen, where men sit and read, drink tea and coffee, and find the best meal available within reach, all showed by the constant flow of men in and out during their free time how the men appreciated what Hibbert Houses had to offer. This work for the services launched by the Hibbert Trustees in 1941, has been carried on in eighteen houses which have been opened, closed down and succeeded by others in the Middle East, as the British Forces have been moved from one country to another. In the Council of Voluntary Welfare Work for the Services, Unitarians are represented alongside the Churches of England and Scotland, the Salvation Army, the Church Army, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Toc H., and other bodies, and it it vital that this connection and this work should be continued by our denomination. At present the committee is looking for someone, minister or lay, for Mr. Sparham to train in the religious work and the post of Director, and for someone, male or female, who can train as canteen manager or possibly as warden of a hostel. Volunteers are invited to write, with details of their experience and names of referees, to Lt. Col. Sir Philip Colfox, Bart., M.C., D.L., Symondsbury Manor, Bridport, Dorset.

UNITARIAN BROADCAST

The evening service at Swansea on June 7th will be broadcast on the Welsh Home Service from 7.45 to 8.25. It will be conducted by the minister, the Rev. L. Baker Short.

STRAIGHT GIVING

By T. J. Jones

The Welsh Unitarian Monthly Magazine ("Yr Ymofynnydd," meaning "The Inquirer"), recently carried an article which greatly intrigued me; and I use it as deserving a wider public. It is a somewhat facetious and satirical account of a Jerusalem Bazaar" in the life of the early Christian Church. Additional to a mass of humorous details relating to various stalls, there is a list of Patrons of a most startling variety. And here is the rub! It includes all the notabilities of Jerusalem: Herod, Pilate, Herodias, Salome, Caiaphas, Annas, as well as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. All, irrespective of incongruity, have been decoyed into the attraction of a "Bazaar." And the reason? It was found that the ideal of sacrificial giving on the part of the early believers and followers of "The Way" had very soon become out-moded and old-fashioned. Hence the apocryphal Bazaar "Way."

Is this too fantastic and far-fetched? Maybe; but may we not regard it as a piece of "prophetic licence" to point a moral? I must confess that I sometimes wonder whether we do not resort to too many roundabout ways for raising funds for our Cause; and some of them of doubtful propriety. Take Bazaars, for example. I know quite well how much can be raised by this means, since my own church does it very effectively; but I sometimes have qualms when I remember that anybody and everybody can be pressed into service as openers and as supporters, whether they have any real interest in, or sympathy for, our cause or not.

For a movement like ours, which is not exactly popular, there would seem to be a need for more straight" giving, as from those who believe in it, even to the point of sacrifice. And it could have a double effect: in increasing our funds to meet so many new needs; and increasing interest in the very cause itself. For the old word, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," can bear this meaning, too.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Anniversary Time

Raymond was convinced there was a plot. Was "conspiracy" the word? Yes—it was.

The Sunday School Anniversary loomed ahead and, apart from the special services on Sunday, there was to be the Annual Concert the previous evening. Raymond didn't usually mind, but this time he was involved and that was different. Sitting in the audience was one thing: standing on the stage was quite another.

But why had HE been chosen? He hadn't volunteered. Miss Brown had started it, of course. She had told him one Sunday that his voice had definitely improved and that he must join the choir. Then came solo singing and try as he would—and did—he could not get out of it. It was all right for Lisbeth, Albert and the others—but not him. After all he was not made to be a singer—especially with a high voice! With a nice deep one he would not feel half so daft. He wondered when his voice would break. But his mother—had she smiled?—assured him it would be a few years yet.

Still, he supposed he would have to go through with it; and all these people would be out in front, his mother and father—oh dear!

But he did go through with it—and, do you know, he sang extremely well. Everybody said so and he surprised himself! Of course he hid himself well afterwards — nobody could find him. Has he changed his mind? Well, not really; but he hadn't been so nervous as he expected. It hadn't been too bad at all.

" UP FOR T'ASSEMBLY "

By T'Tyke

Ah wor well pleased to goa to Leeds for t'Assembly Meetings; ah've been away nah for twoatnra years an' it wor varry nice to be welcomed wi' hooamly greetings throo owd friends, " Ee lad, ah'm fained pleased to see thee. Tha'rt lukkin well." It wor varry nice too to drink a cup of teea ez hed been mashed an' not brewed. Iverybody agreed 'at we wor waarmly welcomed, an' by gow we need it for t'weather wor nowt to crack on abaht.

Hahiver, thear we wor in Leeds City Square lapping in t'same air ez owd Jooa Priestley hed discovered summat abaht. Ah'm not reyt sewer what it wor but it's been a booin' an' a blessing iver sin. Jooa Priestley ewsed to be t'parson at Mill Hill Chapill. It's monny a long year sin he wor thear, o' coarse, but t'fowk i' Leeds still remember him wi' some pride. A number of t'meetings wor held in t'Priestley Hall 'at wor named after him. We wor safe eniff thear becoss one of thease insewerance companies ez t'graand flooar an' if tha knaws owt 'ats safer nor them tha mun let me knaw.

T'fowk ez are moithered abaht t'Sunda Skooils (an' we'd be better sarved if there wor mooar o'them) hed fust meeting, an' we hed t'pleasure of heearing two ladies throo " t'other " caanty heeading t'proceedings. There wor Mrs. Thrasher, throo Gorton, gi'ing up an' t'Reverend Joyce Hazlehurst, of Horwich, takkin' ower t'job of t'President of t'Sunda Skooil Association. Nah some fowk say ez hah wimmin tawk, but booath theas ladies tawk to some purpose an' that maks a heeap of difference.

For t'reception we awl craahded into t'Priestley Hall. It wor a bit of a tight squeeaz, an' it worn't iverybody ez gat summat to eit, tho' mooast wor clemmed wi' trav'lling. Thooas who did hev summat telled t'others hah gooid t'caikes wor. Not laike mi mother ewsed to mak, but still varry gooid.

T'same neet, t'Chapill wor as neear filled ez maks nooa difference ior t'Anniversary Sarvice. Tha knaws, ther's summat abaht a chapill full of Unitarians ez maks yo' praad to be one of 'em. Mooast fowk reckon it wor a gooid sarvice; not iverybody, of coarse, but that wor to be expected. If iverybody wor suited we sud hev nowt to grummell abaht. T'preacher wor t'Reverend Wilfrid Waddington. He telled us awl a few hooam trewths 'at wor straight fra t'shoulder an' not oonned up i' fancy tawk. Mind yo' when tha remembers he comes fra Pudsa it wor nobbut to be expected.

(To be continued)

HONOUR FOR FORMER EDITOR

At the April General Assembly Meetings in Leeds the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., for twenty-nine years Editor of the *Unitarian*, became President of the Assembly. Mr. Vallance is a native of Mansfield and was educated at Sedbergh School and Lincoln College, Oxford. His first ministry was at Pendleton, where he started a Scout group and founded the Albert Schweitzer Boys' Club. Mr. Vallance is now minister at Altrincham. He was secretary of the Manchester Council of Churches for twelve years.

A former President of the U.Y.P.L., Mr. Vallance has written two hymns, one of which is sung as the U.Y.P.L. hymn.

Many well-deserved compliments have been paid to Mr. Vallance but one that remains in one's mind is that " I would not mind having bishops if Arthur Vallance were one."

On behalf of all readers the magazine wishes Mr. Vallance a very happy year of office.

:ECOMMENDED

Enjoyable and thought-provoking ading is provided by the latest ublications of the Lindsey Press. *The Story of Essex Hall,"* by Dr. Cortimer Rowe (7s. 6d. or 6s. plus ostage), will be enjoyed by anyone ho "gets something" from tracing ne histories of people or places. dded interest is given to this book ecause so many Unitarians have ontributed to the cost, of Essex all, and because the new building ill be so valuable to the movement.

What are television, the Press, and o forth, doing to us? What sort of eople control these media? Aspects f mass communications and their mpingement upon the spirit of man rovide the theme for this year's ssex Hall Lecture (2s., plus ostage) delivered by the Rev. C. O. hodes, Director and Secretary of he Modern Churchman's Union and ormerly Editor of the "Church of ngland Newspaper."

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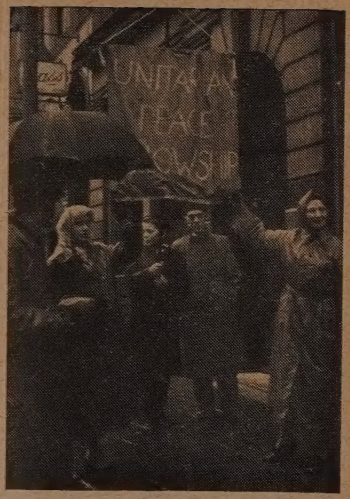

Some of the Unitarian contingent that walked in a recent H-Bomb protest march in Manchester (with Manchester weather).

NEWS AND VIEWS

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

Dr. Sophia Lyon Fahs, aged 72, was ordained at Montgomery County Unitarian Church in March. Dr. Fahs was for fifteen years part-time editor of children's material for the American Unitarian Association. She is editor, author or co-author of more than fifty books used in religious education.

The Rev. Dan Huntington Fenn, Unitarian minister in WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, recently found in an attic there an original copy, in the author's handwriting, of the well-known Christmas carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." The carol was written in 1849 by the Rev. Edmond Hamilton Sears, a Wayland Unitarian minister.

VANCOUVER reports that there can be no question of going back to one service in the morning — "We couldn't get them all in." About 200 people attend the two morning services.

HOME CHURCHES

The Manchester District Women's League Spring Meeting was held at BANK STREET, BURY, on Saturday, April 11th, and almost 200 members attended. Mrs. J. Lord, B.A., was the preacher and gave a very enjoyable talk, which had a real spring tonic flavour. The choir and the soloist sang beautifully. After tea, which was provided by the ladies of Bury, we had our own session of the popular radio game, "Any Questions." The panel were: Miss Foley, M.B.E., J.P., the Rev. J. Hazlehurst, M.A., B.D., Mrs. Jessel, M.A., Miss D. Wood, B.A., and the question-master our President, Mrs. J. O'Brien.

At CROSS STREET CHAPEL on Tuesday May 12th, the Speech and Drama Students of the Northern School of Music, assisted by the students of Unitarian College, Manchester, presented Clive Sansom's "The Witnesses." The poems had been presented the previous week in the Cathedral. Each of "the witnesses" was presented very movingly, and He whom they witnessed lived again, from boyhood to the Cross, for those who heard the presentation.

Rogation Sunday was observed at TODMORDEN on May 3rd. Seeds were distributed to members of the congregation to remind them, symbolically, of the sowing of the seeds of the spirit of the Church.

Throughout May the evening services at IPSWICH will be replaced by house discussions "dealing with basic issues."

Gala evening at SWINTON was the usual enjoyable affair. During the evening Mr. Joe Fairhurst, President of the U.Y.P.L., received a presentation. Sunday School Anniversary services were conducted by the Rev. Glyn Pruce. A service of music by a saxaphone quartet was followed by reports from the church's General Assembly delegates.

Throughout May the Advance Campaign at BATH has dealt with Unitarianism and Practical Issues. Visiting preachers have been the Rev. R. W. Sorenson and Mrs. E. M. Crosskey.

The result of an exhaustive inquiry at OAKFIELD, Bristol, is that an oil-burning boiler, costing £550, is to be purchased.

Wednesday meetings at PLYMOUTH are considering "What is Unitarianism?" Retiring collections in April were devoted to the Save the Children Fund.

The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Belfast, hopes that its new Central Hall will be opened early in September. The time of the evening service has been changed experimentally from 7 to 6.30. The aim is to build an evening congregation of at least one hundred.

Twenty garages have been built in the grounds of UNITY CHURCH, Sheffield. Eventually Church income will be considerably strengthened as a result. Unity Church was the host for the Sheffield District Association A.G.M. in April. President Vallance conducted the service and spoke at the meeting on "Training Unitarians for Freedom in a District Association."

"If a man sue thee at the law and take away thy coat" . . .

In 1958 the HIGH PAVEMENT, Nottingham, Sunday School gave £94 to the Chapel.

Much discussion is going forward BROOKFIELD, Manchester, about the launching of an extensive appeal for funds for redecoration and restoration of buildings and ground.

KENDAL renovation fund has raised £1,635 towards its target of £1,850.

At the A.G.M. of the National MEN'S LEAGUE at Great Hucklow, Mr. Buxton spoke on "An Autobiography." The preacher at the Sunday service was Mr. Squire Roe.

A new pulpit fall and christening font will be dedicated at PORTSMOUTH the John Pounds' Birthday Services on June 14th. The services will be conducted by the President of the General Assembly. During the last two and a half years membership has increased from about a dozen to over forty.

The Mayor of DUKINFIELD opened the North Cheshire Sunday School Union Arts and Crafts Exhibition, held at the Old Chapel in May.

Beginning with a service at the end of May, the Rev. S. R. Butler is to have occasional mid-week evening services at GATEACRE.

The EAST CHESHIRE UNION celebrated its Centenary in April with a dinner and special service. Preacher at the service was the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede.

WANDSWORTH held a special meeting to hear Dr. Tarrant report on the G.A. Meetings. First results are shown in increased support for the envelope scheme, arrangements for regular mid-monthly meetings, and a special service of witness of social service. Miss Gavvy conducted the Women's League Service.

SOUTHPORT was the host for the Liverpool and District A.G.M. early in May. Later in the month a Unity Service was held with a Jewish Rabbi and member of the Bahai Faith taking part.

The only service at KNUTSFORD on May 10th when the Annual "All-In" Service was held, was at 3 o'clock. The morning service on Whit Sunday was attended by Manchester Grammar School boys, who were camping in Booth's Park.

The children conducted the Sunday School Queen Services at HACKNEY, when Councillor Mrs. J. M. Heath crowned the new Queen, Miss Judith R. Goddard. As well as trainbearers and heralds there were thirty attendants.

HINCKLEY Sunday School Anniversary services in May were conducted by the Rev. C. H. Bartlett and the Rev. E. A. Davies. Children performed the parable "Ask and it shall be given you." Collections for the day totalled £85.

Members at URMSTON have been busy spring cleaning the Church.

The Rev. John Gill, of Wythenshawe improves steadily and hopes to be taking full part in the opening of the new building there on June 6th. The treasurer is distributing shillings which are to be increased to ten shillings and returned to Church funds by the day of the opening.

Following upon suggestions at the HALE BARNS A.G.M., three informal meetings have been fixed for May and June for members to chat about their views on religion. Mr. Murray will open discussion at the first meeting and the Rev. Glyn Pruce at the second. Young members are to take the minister to Great Hucklow for a holiday later in the year.

As we go to press, early reports are beginning to creep through about the U.Y.P.L. Annual General Meetings at Hucklow. Congratulations were sent to the Rev. A. W. Vallance on becoming the first former President of U.Y.P.L. to become President of the G.A. A resolution was passed pledging young Unitarians to challenge, as an outcome of their religious faith, all colour prejudice and hatred. Alan Curren became President and Florence Stark, of Glasgow, President-Elect. Miss Alice Crombie caused a stir at some unearthly hour when her hot water bottle (in May!) burst.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

Mr. Scott Dunbar, M.A., has just returned from the Institut La Villan, Lausanne, where he lectured on "The Concept of Self in the English Novel." Mr. Dunbar's thesis for his doctorate is at present being read at Stanford University, California.

Having declined the opportunity of studying for a Ph.D. at Magdalen College, Oxford, Mr. Dunbar is now making up his mind which of two proferred lectureships, at San Francisco State College or St. John's University, New Brunswick, to accept.

It has recently been revealed that "Tobermory," the writer of a weekly article in the Macclesfield Express, is the Rev. John Kielty, Secretary of the General Assembly. Mr. Kielty delivered a series of lectures in the U.S.A. during May.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Bartlett, Stalybridge, on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. John R. Sturges, D.P.A., Minister at Portsmouth, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Sir Adrian Boult has just taken up his new appointment as conductor of the City of Birmingham Orchestra.

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